
If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty, please contact the Elections section of the North Dakota Secretary of State:

Secretary of State of North Dakota
600 E. Boulevard Ave Dept 108
Bismarck, ND 58505
(701) 328-4146 (voice)
(800) 352-0867 (toll-free)
(701) 328-2992 (fax)
www.state.nd.us/sec

If the North Dakota Secretary of State is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 307-2767 (voice)
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)
(202) 307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.

Issued December, 2000

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Restoring Your Right to Vote



The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in North Dakota?

If you are a resident of North Dakota, you cannot vote while you are incarcerated as a result of a felony conviction.

If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in North Dakota, you may be able to vote by absentee ballot in your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?

Your right to vote is automatically restored upon lawful release from incarceration.

What if my conviction was for a federal crime?

North Dakota applies the same rules whether you were convicted of a federal or state crime.

What if I was convicted in another state?

The same rules apply for North Dakota voters even if the conviction occurred in another state.

What happens if I move to another state?

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

What are North Dakota's other voter registration requirements?

To vote in North Dakota, you must be a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old on the day of the election, a North Dakota resident, and a resident of the precinct for at least 30 days before the election.

How do I register to vote?

You do not need to register to vote in North Dakota. Unlike most states, North Dakota does not have a registration list for voters. In order to vote, you simply go on election day to the polling place for the precinct where you live.